The Golden Oldies

We will feature one of the Hall of Fame's Golden Oldies in each issue of The Fame Game. In this issue we spotlight Bert Robertson, the oldest of the living inductees.

Bert Roberstson (left) with Stan Eastham

The amazing Bert Robertson has led a varied and exciting life, experienced World War Two action and played football in many places around the world.

He will be 89 on October 7 — and is still as sharp as a tack.

Born in Dundee in Scotland in 1917, Bert was a forward with Dundee United before the outbreak of war in 1939 interrupted what had been regarded as a promising football career. Bert says the highlight in those days was scoring a hat-trick for United in a 4-3 loss to Airdrie.

He served in the navy during the war and spent some time in submarines.

"We had a naval representative team and I got the chance to play in places like Newfoundland, Ceylon and in Perth when we came to WA in 1944," he recalled.

"I met my future wife Betty in WA and when she came to Scotland after the war we got married in Dundee. We recently celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary."

Bert returned to WA in 1947, got a job as a fitter at Fremantle Power Station and played for a string of clubs, including Spearwood Rovers, North Perth and Fremantle City before joining Perth City.

He was the league's top scorer with 20 goals in 1954 when one of his Perth City team mates was inside forward Stan Eastham, who had played for Great Britain in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin and also had a spell with Liverpool.

Bert went on to coach Perth Azzurri, leading them to a league and cup double success in 1960.

HIs son Graham, a Rhodes Scholar who is now a university professor, once played for East Fremantle Tricolore.

Bert doesn't get to many games these days after injuring a hip when he fell while on holidays in Albany. "I had to give up playing golf, so the only exercise I get is when the wife chases me around," he joked.

He was inducted into the Hall of Champions in 1996 and was included in the Century of Champions line-up in 2004.

BACK COPIES ON SALE

A few copies of some of the commemorative booklets that were produced for induction ceremonies are still available for sale.

Copies can be purchased of the 2005 Gala Induction Dinner that included the historic launch of the Hall of Legends.

There are also copies available of the lavish booklet that was produced to honour the Century of Champions, which was held in 2004 and paid tribute to the 100 best players in the State between 1902 and 2002.

The publications cost $10 each and can be ordered by contacting John O'Connell (0413 973 846) or Bob Brown (9446 3338).

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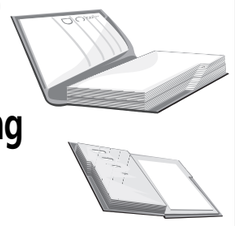

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Football Hall of Fame Western Australia

THE FAME GAME

(The official newsletter of the Football Hall of Fame Western Australia)

Issue 1 (Spring 2006)

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This year is the 10th Anniversary of the Football Hall of Fame Western Australia, which was founded in 1996. To commemorate this significant milestone, an Anniversary Gala Dinner will be held at the Perth Soccer Club, Dorrien Gardens, on Friday, November 17, 2006.

And to make it a double celebration, the Football Hall of Fame Committee will also stage a Special World Cup Tribute to Stan Lazaridis and Tony Franken, the only two West Australians to be involved in the Australian squad and coaching staff at the 2006 finals in Germany — and to Alistair Edwards, the coach of the Young Matildas side that reached the Under-20 World Cup finals in Russia. The Marah Halim heroes of 1975 and 1976 will also be saluted.

Tickets to what promises to be a memorable evening will cost $60 each. The dinner will consist of three courses and wine, beer and soft drinks are also included in the price.

Tickets are available from Bob Brown (9446 3338), John O'Connell (0413 973 846) or Barbara Gibson (9526 0330).

The cost also includes a lavish commemorative booklet.

There's much to celebrate on November 17, as WA was the first State in Australia to establish a Hall of Fame — in fact, we even beat the ruling body to the punch.

There have been three induction ceremonies in 10 Years — in 1996, 2002 and 2005.

A total of 46 were among the historical first inductees in 1996, including 29 players being welcomed into the Hall of Champions and 17 appointed into the Hall of Recognition, which celebrates the achievements of administrators, coaches, referees and others.

In 2002, a further 25 were honoured — 11 into the Hall of Champions and 14 into the Hall of Recognition.

A futher nine players were inducted into the Hall of Champions in 2005 and there were 14 newcomers into the Hall of Recognition.

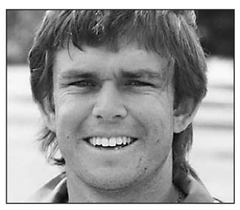
There was a further touch of history in 2005 with the introduction of a Hall of Legends category when four champion players — Ron Adair, John McInroy, Gary Marocchi and Robbie Dunn — became the first to be elevated to legendary status.

And to mark 100 years since WA first established State representative contests, the Committee chose the 100 best players over that period to celebrate a Century of Champions in 2004.

The Hall of Fame Committee also held a successful World Cup Quiz Night in June, 2006, to celebrate Australia's achievement in reaching the finals for the first time in 32 years. Over 200 attended.

There are plans to hold another Quiz Night in mid-2007 to coincide with Australia's participation in the Asian Cup finals for the first time — and a further Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place in late 2007.

SALUTE TO WA'S WORLD CUP LINK



This year has been a milestone for WA football with three West Australians making history by being involved in the finals of two World Cups.

Stan Lazaridis and Tony Franken were part of the Socceroos playing squad and coaching staff for the FIFA World Cup finals in Germany — and Alistair Edwards was coach of the Young Matildas women's team that impressed in the Under-20 World Cup finals in Russia.

Lazaridis and Franken were the first West Australians to be involved in the World Cup finals.

Lazaridis, who recently joined Perth Glory after 10 successful years in England with West Ham and Birmingham, was a member of the Socceroos squad that reached the last 16 in Germany.

Perth-born Lazaridis has had a distinguished career at international level, making 59 A appearances for Australia and winning many other honours in other representative games.

He is the most capped West Australian.

Franken, who retired as a goalkeeper in 2002 after making 278 NSL appearances — including 39 when he played for Perth Glory — was the goalkeeper coach to the Socceroos in Germany.

The Fremantle-born Franken made 14 appearances in a distinguished international career with Australia.

Both Lazaridis and Franken were included in WA's Century of Champions in 2004 — as was Edwards, who became the first WA-based coach to take a team to a world championship finals series.

Although the Young Matildas didn't make it out of the group stage, they won one game and drew another and Edwards coaching skills received much praise.

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ISSUE

By Louis Prospero

Chairman of the Football Hall of Fame WA Committee

It's with great pride that I welcome you to the first issue of The Fame Game — and it's appropriate that our newsletter should be launched in the year of the 10th Anniversary of the Football Hall of Fame.

We are expecting a bumper turn-out at our Anniversary Dinner on November 17, for it will be a further celebration of the achievements of the many players, administrators, coaches, referees and others who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame over the last decade.

And, of course, it will give us the opportunity to applaud the efforts of our World Cup representatives Stan Lazaridis, Tony Franken and Alistair Edwards, whose contributions to Australian teams in 2006 helped achieve a further milestone for the game in Western Australia.

It was also a year that marked a further significant achievement on the part of the WA State team, celebrating three decades since the representative side made a major breakthrough by winning the important Marah Halim tournament in Indonesia in 1975 and again in 1976.

We hope that The Fame Game will become your voice, as well as that of the Hall of Fame Committee.

We would welcome all comments and suggestions — and any newsworthy items.

If you are in business, we would also encourage you to support the newsletter by advertising your wares.

Initially it will be a four-pager — but it could grow with the right support.

There will be four issues a year.

I would like to pay tribute to the ongoing dedication of the Hall of Fame Committee, without whose tirless work our many induction ceremonies and other celebratory events would not be possible.

Thanks also to the continuing support of our Patron, Julian Burt, whose forefathers were instrumental in establishing the code in WA over 100 years ago.

QUEST FOR A MUSEUM

The major ambition of the Hall of Fame Committee is to establish a Football Museum in Western Australia.

It is envisaged that this would house countless items of memorabilia on the history of the game in the State — plus National and International collections — and also provide a showcase to properly honour those who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame over the last 10 years.

Various set-ups have been suggested — including a transportable unit near the main entrance to Members Equity Stadium, space in the proposed new stand at the same venue, the construction of a building at one of the established football clubs in the city or the lease of an historic building in the metropolitan area.

The State Government and various councils have been approached regarding making a site available. Some bodies have been supportive but, as yet, no firm commitment has followed.

The Hall of Fame Committee considers that the establishment of a Football Museum would be a considerable plus for the State. It would be the first of its kind in Australia — and could prove to be a tourism boon and a valuable asset for school projects aimed at researching the history of sport in Western Australia.

The game is rich in history in WA. It's 110 years since the first recorded organised contest was played in Perth and the early powerbrokers of the sport included some of the most influential men in the State, including Septimus Burt, who was WA's Attorney General in the 1890's.

Over the years, WA has produced many players who have represented Australia in the World Cup and in the Olympic Games.

It's important that we properly acknowledge the achievements of these players and a Football Museum would be the perfect vehicle for such a target.

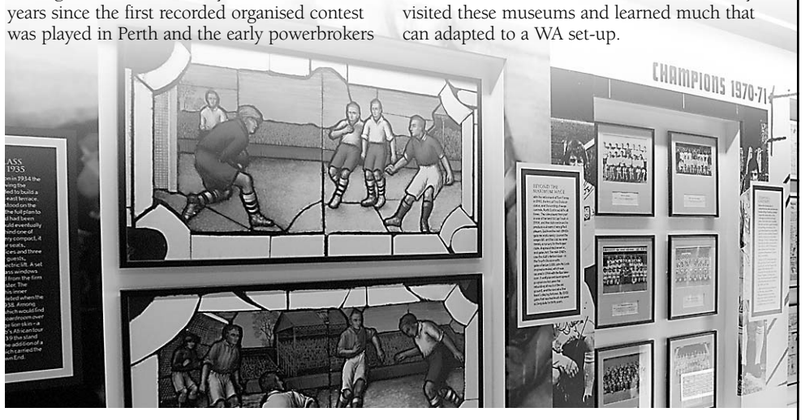
There are also many collections of memorabilia being held privately around the State which require a home — and deserve to be on public display.

The Hall of Fame Committee is searching for major backers to support the setting-up of a Museum, including a naming-rights sponsor.

This is an exciting project with much prestige attached. With YOUR HELP it can become one of the most important testaments to sporting history in Australia.

If you feel you can contribute to this vision please contact Committee chairman Louis Prospero or Committee members Bob Brown or John O'Connell.

Both England and Scotland boast superb football museums. Bob Brown and another Committee member, Richard Kreider, recently visited these museums and learned much that can adapted to a WA set-up.



REACH OUT AND ADVERTISE

Would you like to do business with one of your fellow inductees or with others who are on The Fame Game's mailing list?

If so, then why not advertise your services, or wares, in the Newsletter.

The Fame Game will be distributed four times a year — and reach some of the most influential people in football, not only in Western Australia but Australia as a whole.

Copies of The Fame Game will also be sent to FIFA and to the English FA and the Scottish FA.

It is the ideal opportunity to do a bit of networking — and get worldwide recognition.

The cost of adverts is a modest $40 — or save considerably by taking out a year's advertising subscription for only $100 for four issues.

Contact Bob Brown (9446 3338) or John O'Connell (0413 973 846) to book your ads.

HELPING THE GAME TO GROW

Apart from identifying the greats of the game, the Football Hall of Fame Commitee also attempts to help the growth of the game through supporting worthwhile causes.

SBS TV recently highlighted the effort being made in WA to encourage young Aboriginal male and female players through an annual schools indigenous carnival. The Hall of Fame Committee has provided financial support to this initiative for the last two years.

The Committee has also given support to the young players of Trinity College, who recently took part in a prestigious tour of Singapore.

HOW TO NOMINATE A POTENTIAL INDUCTEE

Do you fancy playing The Fame Game?

Here's your opportunity to nominate someone you consider could be worthy of induction into the Hall of Champions for players or the Hall of Recognition for coaches, administrators, referees and others who may have made a significant contribution to the game in this State.

Of course, they must meet a tough criteria before they can become eligible to join the elite of the sport in Western Australia.

The philosophy of the Hall of Fame is to discover and highlight the very best talent that has graced football in WA since the official foundation of the code in 1896 — both on and off the field.

With this in mind, a criteria was established in 1996 that it was believed would identify the great contributors.

The Hall of Fame Committee is of the opinion that it is desirable to maintain this high standard.

Regarding champion players, the Hall of Champions criteria embraces a points system that rewards those who have achieved considerable success.

The most points are awarded to players who have represented Australia at international level.

The next highest category involves those who have represented WA at State team level.

Points are also given to players whose teams have won premierships, cups, top fours and nights series and have captained teams or won fairest and best awards. There are also points for every season played at the highest level and to the top goalscorers.

Another factor taken into account is the question of the perception one has of the player and his impact on the game in WA.

Regarding the Hall of Recognition, it's important to look at the effect individuals have had on the sport at State and regional level, rather than at club level.

Several high-profile administrators who made big contributions to the game in general have already been inducted, as have leading coaches and referees.

If you have identified someone you think may meet the criteria, please fill in the enclosed nomination form and include as much detail of their career as you can discover.

Also include a contact address or telephone number for the nominee.

The Hall of Fame's Historical Committee will then conduct further research to see if the nominee reaches the desired standard. The Committee reserves the right to have the final say on all nominees.

So, get cracking in The Fame Game.

THE MARAH HALIM MEN

It's 31 years since the WA State team made its biggest breakthrough, winning the prestigious Marah Halim Cup tournament in Indonesia in 1975 — and, for good measure, triumphing again in 1976.

"Winning that event twice was the biggest thing ever achieved by a WA team — and it probably still hasn't been matched," recalled Nick McCallum, who was the top scorer in the tournament in both years with seven goals each time.

"There was such talent in that team that both myself and Alan Vest, who was our coach, are convinced it would win the A League were it to be put together today.

"There wasn't a bad player in the whole squad — and in Gary Marocchi and Stephen Sceats we had two of the best midfielders in the whole country. We had other terrific performers, too, in the likes of Ernie Hannigan, Skippy O'Callaghan and our captain Denis Barstow."

Marocchi, of course, went on to captain Australia, while centre half David Jones and centre forward Ray Ilott also were capped at international level.

Other squad members involved in the 1975 and 1976 triumphs included Sav Madaschi, Tony Witschge, Steve Pateman, Sauro Iozzelli, Gordon McCulloch, Hugh Miller, Steve Stacey, John O'Connell, Tony Trinca, George McMillan, Dave Brooks, Peter Johnston, Bob Taylor, Aldo Trinca, Bert Kirkpatrick, Ken Morton and John Davies.

WA beat South Korea 2-0 in the 1975 final — with goals from McCallum and Hannigan — and also accounted for the Koreans by the same score in the 1976 decider with McCallum again scoring and McMillan getting the other goal.

On the way to the 1976 success, WA had to survive a scary encounter with Indonesian side Surabaya. The match erupted into a brawl in the 75th minute when spectators invaded the pitch and Iozzelli had lime thrown in his face and both McCallum and McCulloch were kicked. But WA went on to win 2-0.

Many of the Marah Halim heroes have been inducted into the Hall of Champions, while others have been honoured with inclusion in the State's 100 Best Players list, the Century of Champions. We will salute them again at the Anniversary Dinner on November 17.

McCallum, incidentally, recently returned to WA from a visit to his native Scotland — where he is still remembered as something of a hero.

"It was all a bit embarrassing," he said. "The local newspaper, the Highland News, had a story about me and the headline said 'Soccer legend back in town.'"

THANKS TO DAVID ANDREWS

David Andrews, a former distinguished sports writer and one of the founding members of the Football Hall of Fame Committee, is pursuing a Sea Change — and his dedicated input will be sorely missed.

He recently left his Perth home to take up residence in the South West in Dunsborough.

David arrived in Sydney from his native England as a teenager in 1956 before coming to WA in 1958.

Having had trials with Arsenal, he was much in demand in football circles, first in NSW with Bankstown and Manly, and then in Perth as a centre forward with East Claremont Menora, Perth City and Subiaco.

He played in the same era as John McInroy, the State's hottest goalscorer and one of the Hall of Fame Legends.

"I remember once playing against John when he was with Tricolore," recalled David. "People asked me how good he was — but all I saw that day was his bum, because he scored a record nine goals against us."

David was Chief Librarian with The West Australian from 1975 until his retirment in 1998 and also was the paper's chief football (soccer) writer from 1964 until 1991.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

Collecting football memorabilia and programmes has taken off in WA.

Two Programme Fairs were held in Perth in 2006, sparking a terrific response from collectors not only in WA but also in the Easterns States and in New Zealand.

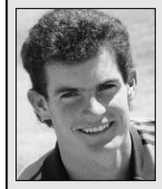
"There's a lot of interest out there," said organiser Bob Brown. "It's big business in Britain with many collector fairs taking place there on a regular basis and we hope to satisfy a similar need in WA."

Bob hopes to stage another Fair early in 2007. Anyone interested in either displaying items, or selling them, should contact him on ***9446 3338*** or by email at ***copbrown@amnet.net.au***

EDWARDS GETS HOT

Alistair Edwards, a member of our Century of Champions, could be poised to become Australia's hottest young coach.

When he gave up playing in 2002 after a distinguished career in which he won 22 caps for Australia, made over 170 appearances in the NSL and played in England with Millwall and with many top clubs in Asia, Edwards briefly became a councillor with the City of Cockburn, worked for the Department of Sport and Recreation and also turned his attention to coaching.



He was coach to the State women's team before leading the Western Waves in their first season in the national women's competition and then progressing to become the coach of the Australian Under-20's women's team, nicknamed the Young Matildas.

He became the first West Australian to coach a team in a World Cup finals when he took the Young Matildas to the finals of the Under-20 World championship in Russia in August.

The team, which included hot-shot WA midfielder Colette McCallum, turned in some dazzling efforts despite not making it out of the group stage. They beat New Zealand, lost to Brazil and drew 1-1 with European champions Russia in a game they dominated.

Edwards' abilities so impressed Football Federation Australia that he was asked to put together a report on Youth Development in the sport, focussing on the trends in Asia and Europe. He recently visited Japan, Britain, France and Holland.

"My brief was to meet with Asian and European coaches, review what they are doing in youth development and see what we can learn from them," he said

How to contact the Football Hall of Fame Committee

Contact numbers, and email addresses, for members of the Hall of Fame Committee are:

Chairman:	Louis Prospero	9237 9205	pccd@mbox.com.au
Treasurer:	Bob Brown	9446 3338	copbrown@amnet.net.au
Secretary:	Barbara Gibson	9526 0330	barbara_g@iprimus.com.au
Sponsorship committee:			
	John O'Connell	0413 973846	soccerwest1@bigpond.com
	Bob Brown	9446 3338	copbrown@amnet.net.au
	Craig Hollingsworth	0434 307510	cch@bgc.com.au
	Peter Dimopolous	9526 0330	
Historical committee:			
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	Russell Whitson	9375 9643	
	Brett Klucznik	9222 2572	bklucznik@iprimus.com.au
Other member:			
	Russell Goodrick	9449 9864	rg@mrginternational.com

** If you have any newsworthy items for inclusion in The Fame Game, please contact the editor, Mel Moffat. The Hall of Fame is a non-profit organisation.*